

#70 *FORUM POST ON "A LITTLE WINE FOR YOUR STOMACH'S SAKE"

Dear V_____,

You quoted:

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now, we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part: then shall I know even as also I am known.

The teaching on a "babe in Christ" is actually a difficult subject in scripture. It sounds easy enough to understand but applying it to a person is a "mystery". I consider it to be a part of the great mystery of Christ and His Church (**Eph 5:32**). I'll try to explain below.

To begin with, one must understand that the church today is apostate. It became apostate near the end of the 1st century A.D. I will spend some time on it so that my final comments on a "babe in Christ" will make sense to you.

The apostasy was mentioned Paul below:

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Paul was very distressed about the coming apostasy of the church. Though he did not write much about it, he verbally warned his churches for three years with tears. It was a very big deal. After Paul's death, the spirit of anti-Christ (which John warned about) came into the church and did not spare the flock. The entire church became apostate and began following another Jesus, another spirit, and taught another gospel. That false gospel of Satan's is founded upon "works" mixed with faith. This is the "crooked way" and is why Satan is called the crooked serpent. When Christ is ready to come to a fallen away Elect believer, He will send a person to them in the spirit of Elijah to make the pathway for Christ to come "straight". The straight way is by faith alone in Christ to do all the "works" of our salvation. For this reason, Christ sent John the Baptist to the Nation of Israel. The entire nation was "called out" and had fallen away. Those who responded to John's call of repentance received the Early Rain. They repented from their works and made Christ's pathway straight for Christ to return (as the Bridegroom). Those who never "turned back" received the Latter Rain on the Day of Pentecost. They were the 120 Jewish Elect believers who waited for Christ to return in the upper room.

Note: Since the Gentiles were never given the Early Rain like the Jewish Elect were during Christ's ministry in the flesh, when Christ spiritually comes to a gentile, he will first give them the Early Rain. This event in the life of a gentile gives them a measure of faith and will cause them to call Jesus "Lord". This is the point when they enter the "church". In the church, they become one of the Ten Virgins who must "wait" for the Lord to return (called His second

coming). However, during their time of waiting, they slumber and sleep at night. This represents the apostasy of the church. Both the non-chosen (Foolish Virgins) and the chosen believers (Wise Virgins) will experience it.

After the deaths of the Apostles, Satan's gospel quickly spread into all the churches because his false gospel was very deceptive & pleasing to the carnality of the believers in the church.

Consider what Christ said below:

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Luke 5:29 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

The carnality of called out believers prefers the Old Covenant which is based upon the outward works of man. The New Covenant is different. It is based upon the spiritual works of Christ. Because mankind does not contribute any of their own "works" under the New Covenant, a carnally minded believer will be rejected. The true New Covenant is only acceptable to a believer after they have been converted and have become a child of God.

Christ also said this about what would happen in the church:

Mat 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

The "woman" represents the carnality of a called out believer. She is the one who becomes the Great Harlot and who becomes a "habitation of devils" (spirit of anti-Christ):

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great ([Harlot](#)) is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Below, Christ taught how the church (through their carnal nature) became indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth

through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a False Prophet, a Man of Sin, a Minister of Satan and a Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns.

The "church" that exists in the world today (all approx. 2,000 different denominations/sects) is apostate and it became apostate shortly after Paul's death. The bread that the apostate church teaches is very deceiving and is full of "hidden" leaven. It has some truth mixed into it but overall, its teachings are false.

The Doctrines of Free Will and Hell are most dangerous teachings because, through those doctrines, Satan kills the saints:

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

There is only one sin that a called out believer can commit that will cause them to fall from grace. That is the sin of adding their own works to "grace through faith". This is the sin that leads to death (**1John 5:16**).

Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Even just adding one "work" (like circumcision) to faith will cause a believer to fall from grace and come under the Law again. This truth is taught by the "type" given in the story of the woman taken in adultery. It is only after Christ writes His Law of the Spirit in our hearts a second time does the Law no longer accuse us.

With all that said, the point I wanted to make about a "babe in Christ" is that there are no "babes in Christ" in the church. The believers in the church have (or will) fallen away and have become a man of sin. They are not a child of God. They are still a child of the devil like before they were "called out". The only difference now is they are a "worse than the first" child of the devil.

When Christ comes again to one of His fallen away Elect believers and pours out the Latter Rain, it is at that point they are "born again" and will become a "babe in Christ". They will then quickly consume the milk of the Word and be ready to move onto bread and meat. This is what the Lord's Supper and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb represent. This meal immediately follows the Marriage of the Lamb which is when the believer is "born again". From the truth the believer consumes, it will bring on the judgment of the Day of the Lord (shown in the last half of Revelation chapter 19). This judgment will remove the spirit of anti-Christ and the Great Harlot from within the believer. The Day of the Lord will complete the believer's "conversion".

However, to make the child of God grow into a fully matured man (a perfect man), the chastisement of Christ will begin. The chastisement of Christ will "transform" the carnal mind of the believer into the "mind of Christ". This is a slow process and can take many years to complete.

John the Baptist is a "type" for the Old Man (represents the carnal mind, the head). He said this:

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

I will respond to your other comments in another post.

Joe

Dear V _____,

You said:

One last thing your testimony made me think of. You mentioned prophecies, tongues and knowledge...failing, ceasing, vanishing. I have never once considered what is the difference in: the Gift of God *and* the Fruit of God? Are they the same or is the gift (promise) given to prepare to bear, the Fruit of God?

As a converted believer matures, they will start producing spiritual fruit. After we become a "perfect man" will produce all the spiritual fruit listed in scripture. To get a believer to that point, the gifts of the Spirit are given to us. Once the "perfect man" arrives, some of the gifts will no longer be needed and will cease.

My wife's gift of prophecy ceased about three years after our conversion. I don't believe she ever had the gift of tongues (languages). What she experienced was what this verse teaches:

1Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

I believe the gift of "knowledge" is referring to the learning of knowledge and not the knowledge itself.

As for where I am in my "walk", I believe I have more to go to become a "perfect man". But I

can see that I am much closer than I used to be. I pray about it quite a bit and will ask for the Lord to chastise me where I still need it. I remind myself that this is all part of why "patience" is one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Luke 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

I will now read your second post and I will respond if necessary.

Joe

Dear V_____,

You said:

I loved most of your post there. I love the way you see. You inspire me, comfort, and help strengthen by sharing because I don't think you are insane or making the word fit your theology talking foolishly. To me you have brought clarity to the Word but there are some things I questioned in that one post though. I've quoted them here.

2Thes 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Thank you for your kind words. Most people on the forum can't "see" what you are seeing.

As for what you still "question", I am amazed that you are not questioning nearly everything I have presented.

As for 2Thes chapter 2, it is Paul's teaching on what the wolves will do when they come into the church. It is one of the most detailed teachings on the apostasy in scripture.

However, chapter 2 is a little confusing until you realize that at the time Paul wrote to his church, the church had not yet become apostate. Paul was still encouraging them and trying to keep his "chaste virgin" from falling away. He didn't want them to have to experience the apostasy before the Lord comes and gathers them to heaven (verse 1, the return of the Bridegroom/Second Coming/Latter Rain).

Concerning verses 1-4, evidently some people in the church had told the Thessalonian believers that the Day of the Lord was "at hand". The Day of the Lord mentioned in verse 2 is referring to when judgment comes upon the "lost" after they have been resurrected from the grave. That event commences the next age. Paul says that before that day comes, the apostasy of the church will occur first. Paul then begins teaching some of the details of the apostasy.

The verse I quoted above is referring to the Man of Sin (the Wicked) who is the end product of the apostasy in the church. The Man of Sin is destroyed by the "brightness" of Christ's

appearance. This "brightness" comes to a believer at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb when the believer begins to understand the truth of God's Word (Christ) for the first time. It is at that time, the believer "sees" the Abomination of Desolation (**Mat 24:15**) which occurred when the spirit of anti-Christ indwelt them. This is also the time when the Man of Sin is revealed to the believer and they see that they are this man. From this knowledge of the truth, Christ will "take" the Man of Sin and cast him into the Lake of Fire. The brightness of the truth of Christ is what destroys the Man of Sin. After this event, the believer is converted.

You said:

I've always thought it is Christ riding a white horse just like the verse you quoted earlier "look up" "lift up your heads" for your redemption draws near.

A "horse" in scripture represents an soldier who is going out to conquer an enemy. When Christ comes to a believer with the Latter Rain, He "appears" as He is. After the birth of the child of God and the Lord's Supper, the white horse appears because judgment is coming. Christ riding a white horse represents Him going out to conquer (judge) the carnality of the believer which includes the Man of Sin and Great Harlot. The child of God is also shown to be riding a white horse with Christ because the child of God will reign with Christ over the believer's own judgment (this is part of the Thousand Years Reign). It is for this reason that an Elect believer will not experience "wrath" during their time of judgment.

As for your last question the drinking a little wine, I will respond to it in another post later today. I am out of time for right now.

Joe

Dear V _____,

You asked:

I do have one silly question maybe you can help with. One I've asked but never got an answer to. Why for your infirmities "drink no longer water but take a little wine for your stomachs sake"?

Any question which is a serious quest for knowledge is not a silly question. Because it's not silly, I will try to give you a serious and correct answer to the best of my ability (as the Lord leads me).

Here is the scripture:

1Tim 5: 19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. 23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities. 24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. 25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are

otherwise cannot be hid.

I will admit that this is a difficult scripture to fully understand. I have given it a lot of thought and have come to an understanding which I believe is correct. However, I won't say that I have 100% certainty. If my understanding is not exactly right, I believe it is close. I'll explain my understanding below and show how I arrived at it.

THE SYMBOLS

As you are probably aware, the teaching of 1Tim 5:23 does NOT concern a physical health issue someone in the church is having. Paul is teaching in Christ's spiritual language which uses "spirit" words (spiritual symbols) which have meanings which are different than what man's wisdom teaches:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

So let's begin our search for treasure by identifying and then, scripturally defining the "spirit" words which Paul uses.

Note: Spiritual symbols can have either a positive application or negative application. Also, spiritual symbols (nouns) can also be used as verbs which will carry different meanings. I will define the symbols below as nouns which is how Paul uses them in the verse.

1). "Water" represents a spirit. It is usually representing the Holy Spirit but sometimes it represents an unclean spirit. Also, a spirit is what gives a person their thoughts & beliefs.

Consider these verses:

Hos 2:5 For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water (unclean spirit), My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink.'

Eze 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water (Holy Spirit) on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

2). "Wine" represents the blood of either the Old Covenant (Old Wine) or the New Covenant of Grace through Faith (New Wine):

Mat 26:27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine (New Wine) from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Luke 5:39 “And no one, having drunk old wine (Old Covenant), immediately desires new (New Covenant); for he says, ‘The old is better.’

3). “Infirmities” represents our weaknesses which can be either physical or spiritual.

2Cor 12:5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities (physical).

Mat 8:17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities (spiritual) And bore our sicknesses.”

4). “Stomach” represents our soul (individual consciousness) which receives the food we eat. That food can be either carnal & false or it can be spiritual & true.

Prov 13:25 The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, But the stomach (soul) of the wicked shall be in want.

Eze 3:3 And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach (soul) with this scroll that I give you.” So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

THE MEANING OF 1TIM 5:23

In this section of scripture, Paul is teaching about the seriousness of when another believer in the church is sinning. Paul says that the sinful believer should be confronted with two or three witnesses. Paul adds that this should not be done suddenly but only after careful consideration of the evidence. Paul adds that others in the church should be careful not to be partakers with them in their sin but to keep themselves pure. So how do we keep ourselves pure? This is what verse 23 is addressing:

1Tim 5:23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.

We keep ourselves pure not just by consuming what the Holy Spirit (water) teaches us to do (love God and love our neighbors) but also by what the Old Covenant of Law (Old Wine) teaches us about right and wrong. Paul says that we should drink a “little wine” (Old) to help our soul (stomach) remain pure and to help with the weaknesses of the flesh.

I can’t say that I am 100% certain of my understanding, but what I stated above is what makes sense to me. I am certain though that the verse is not teaching about drinking literal wine to help our physical stomach with its infirmities – that is a carnal understanding and misses Paul’s message completely.

Joe